Pasadena Citizen



Notable arrest numbers emerge from La Porte's municipal Warrant Round-up

The La Porte Police Department and the City of La Porte's Municipal Court recently joined multiple law enforcement organizations from around Texas in the fifth annual statewide warrant roundup focusing on Class C offenses. The February 25th to March 4th Warrant Roundup was conducted to increase accountability for and compliance and represented a combined effort between the La Porte Police Department, Municipal Court and Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association. The operation was considered as success with at total of \$178,000 in municipal warrants being cleared and 89 wanted persons arrested.

The first phase, which began on February 25, consisted of a week's grace period. During this time various volunteers from LPPD's Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association made outgoing telephone calls to anyone listed on local court registers as having outstanding warrants. Warrant holders were then encouraged to pay their fines at the La Porte Municipal Court without penalty of arrest.

The second week's phase, which ended March 4th, was an actual enforcement week where warrant-holding individuals were "rounded up" by officers and brought to the court to address their outstanding warrants before a Municipal Court Judge.

LPPD's round up co-organizer Lt. Gary Rice expressed his appreciation of all police and court participants involved in the process. "Our officers are always on the look-out for people who have outstanding warrants", Rice said. "However, when we have a concentrated City-wide warrant round-up, we're able to give this problem special attention, and that really increases our chances of arresting wanted persons. In short, if you have a warrant, it's always better to come in and pay on your own terms, before you get surprised by the police knocking at your door."

For more information on La Porte's Warrant Round-Up program, you are encouraged to contact the agency at 281-842-3144, or if you have any questions regarding the municipal warrant process, the La Porte Municipal Court can be reached at 281-471-4683.